

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO

## INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY

USSR/Germany (Soviet Zone)

DATE DISTR. 26 Dec 1952

SUBJECT

Quartermaster Supplies and Services

NO. OF PAGES 7

PLACE  
ACQUIREDDATE  
ACQUIRED BY SOURCE

DATE OF INFORMATION

SUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO.

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES, WITHIN THE MEANING OF TITLE 18, SECTIONS 793 AND 794, OF THE U.S. CODE, AS AMENDED. ITS TRANSMISSION OR REVELATION OF ITS CONTENTS TO OR RECEIPT BY AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PROHIBITED BY LAW. THE REPRODUCTION OF THIS FORM IS PROHIBITED.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

25X1

SOU

1. Q.

A. Soviet troops in Germany generally receive a 450-gram can (round, standard commercial pack) of fish or meat; the types of meat may vary, but the fish is always the same big, coarse, tasteless item.

2. Q. Are these items imported from the USSR?

A. Yes. Also imported to East Germany from the USSR (for troops) are grain (milled in Germany), sugar (hardtack), reserves of meat and fish, and kasha (buckwheat).

3. Q. [redacted] with battalion or regiment?

25X1

A. [redacted], but this is a special case in that [redacted] 37-mm unit, and the battery is directly under regiment. There is no battalion between. A battery of 85-mm weapons has the battalion-regiment organization, and would mess with the battalion.

4. Q. How was the regiment mess set up?

A. The regiment by itself had about 450 men, but a school was attached, thus our strength was close to 600. The regiment had six full time cooks. The officers' mess had two waitresses, and 10 KP's were sent up from the units.

5. Q. How is the food prepared?

A. In garrison, enlisted men's food is prepared in large pots and kettles. The rations are provided in kind to the kitchen for each man to be served.

6. Q. Is there a difference in officers' and enlisted men's messes?

A. Yes. Officers receive much better food. It is better prepared, of better quality and of more assortment. There is one cook assigned to prepare food for officers only; his equipment consists of small pots. Officers receive a supplementary ration - 1,500 grams of sugar, 600 grams of cookies, 1,000 grams canned meat or fish, 1,200 grams (bulk) cereal. Since 1950, the officers have paid in 50 East German marks monthly for extra supply rations, which are now delivered to messes.

CLASSIFICATION SECRET

25X1

State	Army	X	Reg	X	Dissemination														
Army	X	Reg	X	381	X														

SECRET

25X1  
25X1

- 2 -

Prior to 1950, officers had ration cards which authorized them to purchase additional food rations from commissaries. Ration cards are still authorized for special troops (Secret Police, pilots of jet aircraft, and high ranking officers with families). They have a blue card, and it allows them a large saving (eg, a kilo of butter on the civilian market costs 12 East German marks; with the blue card it costs three East German marks. For 40 East German marks monthly they supplement their normal rations to a large degree.

7. Q. How are the Soviet Army cooks selected and trained?

A. Men who have had cooking experience in civilian life in cafes, etc, are picked as cooks. A single MOS number is assigned to all the various jobs in the food service field. Their military training in cooking consists of on-the-job training.

8. Q. How is bread obtained?

A. Bread is baked at division level (probably by Soviet civilians working in the bakery). Flour is issued to unit messes only on holidays (such as May 1, November 7, etc).

9. Q. What pastries are eaten? Where obtained?

A. No pastries are served to troops, only plain cookies. To issue cakes and other pastry items would be spoiling the troops.

10. Q. What is the mess setup in the field?

A. A truck-drawn trailer with four or five pots, firebox and capable of burning wood or coal, is used (approximately one trailer per 160 men). This equipment can cook food on the move. Two pots are used for soup, one for hot water for washing dishes, etc. Another model kitchen trailer has only one large pot. In column movement, lead troops are fed first; after completion of mess, the trailer drops back in the column to feed another group, and this process is continued until the column is fed.

11. Q. What rations are fed in the field?

A. Two liters of soup daily per man (sometimes 200 grams of kasha, or meat or fish), and 800 grams of bread daily (200 grams for breakfast, and 300 grams each for dinner and supper).

12. Q. What mess equipment items do the officers and enlisted men have in field?

A. Enlisted men have meat can, mess utensils, large spoon for soup (spoon carried in boot); officers eat in the field from tin plates and the usual utensils. At mess time, the plates and utensils are brought to the officers' field mess along with the food. After mess, the plates are picked up and washed in the kitchen. Troops in forward areas eat soup from the thermal food container (capacity: about 50 liters) from which about 20 to 25 men are fed.

13. Q. Does the Soviet Army use a master menu?

A. Not exactly; the Chief of the Food Service Section at regiment prepares menus for 5 to 10 days in advance, a copy of which is forwarded to subordinate units as well as the warehouse. The menu aids the warehouse in determining what rations will be drawn; the items on the menu are determined in part by those items available in the warehouse.

14. Q. Does the Soviet Army issue a cook's manual, or recipe manual?

A. I believe that the Chief of the Food Service Section at regiment uses a recipe book to draw up the 5 to 10-day menu. When the 5 to 10-day menu is sent down from regiment, a list of the ingredients, and the method of preparation is also transmitted with the menu. This is done with each menu group.

15. Q. How are ration allowances granted? How is ration strength determined?

A. A daily strength report (similar to the US morning report) is used as a basis for ration strength.

CLOTHING AND FOOTGEAR (Issues, tariffs, etc.)

25X16. Q. [redacted] and how were sizes determined?

A. A sergeant lines up a group of new men, and tells each what size clothing he will wear. The size system for the Soviet Army is based on the following: clothing sizes run 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6, according to the height of the individual (size 1 is very small, and size 6 is the largest). The source said he wore a size 4; his

SECRET

25X1

- 3 -

height was 180 cm (about 5'11"). Sizes varied about 5 cm. Thus, comparative sizes would approximate the following:

Size 1 equals approximately 5'5"  
Size 2 equals approximately 5'6" to 5'7"  
Size 3 equals approximately 5'8" to 5'9"  
Size 4 equals approximately 5'11"  
Size 5 equals approximately 6' to 6'1"  
Size 6 equals approximately 6'2" and over

Sizes 3, 4, and 5 constitute 70% of all clothing issued to members of the Soviet Army.

For each size as shown above, there are three widths - narrow, medium, and broad and, of course, each larger size in height also increases a little in width. Hat sizes run according to civilian custom (sizes 55, 56, 57, etc.)

Boot sizes also run in a system similar to that of clothing. The Soviet Army does not use the usual European shoe size system, but numbers according to the length and width of the shoe. Inside the boot, a numbering symbol is stamped (P-3-111) which indicates the length, the width, and whether it is narrow, medium or broad. Under the arch of the shoe, the usual European number is stamped.

A soldier keeps a record of his clothing and boot sizes in a soldier's book which he carries at all times.

17. Q. What is the life of the various items of issue in the Soviet Army?

A. Boots - 8 months; two pairs underwear - 12 months; summer uniform - 6 months; overcoat - 3 years; officers' items: trousers and breeches - 2 years; jacket - 2 years; summer uniform - 1 season (6 months); boots - 2 years (includes 1 pair chrome leather boots, and 2 pair other boots).

18. Q. How often are boots resoled, etc?

A. The unit commander is responsible for a regular inspection of his men's footwear items; these are resoled and reheelled about every six months.

19. Q. Does the Soviet Army have shoe repair units?

A. Boot repair items (soles, heels, etc) are sent to regiment with footwear issues. Regiment has at least one man with a mechanical stitching machine to repair shoes; frequently, a man with shoe repair experience in the unit will be detailed to the regimental shoe repair shop to aid in the repair of boots from his unit. Very rarely are repair items sent beyond regiment, as it is improbable that they would be returned and, if so, it might not be the same pair or be in worse shape than the first pair sent out. Normally Soviet soldiers receive their own boots back after repair. No regular provision is made for a reserve pair of boots to be worn by the soldier while his footwear is being repaired. In practice, the 1st Sergeant of a company keeps four or five pairs of boots in the orderly tent which he can lend soldiers while their own boots are being repaired.

20. Q. Does the man who repairs shoes at regimental level have the MOS of a shoe repairman?

A. No. He is a member of a rifle squad or mortar crew, and he is selected for the shoe repairman job because of his civilian background in shoe repair work.

21. Q. Do shoe repairmen at battalion or company level have shoe repairmen MOS numbers?

A. No. Again, as in regiment, the man is assigned the MOS of a combat crew member, but is actually given the shoe repair job as his assignment.

22. Q. Do assignments such as this occur often in the Soviet Army, and do the various logistical support positions have MOS numbers?

A. Approximately one-third (repeat one-third) of the Soviet Army is engaged in logistical duties. Men performing these logistical tasks are riflemen, or gun crew personnel assigned to logistical duties, but they retain their combat duty MOS number, rather than receiving a new number for support tasks.

23. Q. In other words the T/O of a Soviet Army unit authorizes a specific number of men for normal combat duties, but the issuance of MOS numbers pertaining to logistical duties is kept to a minimum?

25X1 A. Yes, many times [ ] was short of men for combat duties due to the number placed on logistical support jobs.

SECRET [ ]

25X1

SECRET

25X1  
25X1

- 4 -

24. Q. Where do troops in Germany obtain uniforms?
- A. Soviet troops in Germany wear uniforms made in Germany. The German tailoring influence is noticed in uniform cut and design.
25. Q. Do the Soviets strive for precision and exactness in uniform wear, design of insignia, placement of insignia?
- A. No. The primary emphasis is on combat training and tactics. Very little emphasis is directed toward assuring compliance with uniform regulations.
26. Q. What field laundry facilities does the Soviet Army have?
- A. There is a field laundry setup at division. The Soviet soldier changes his underclothing every 7 to 10 days, and these items are washed normally by the individual, as the division laundry is so slow, or the items become lost. There are no mobile laundries. Division laundries handle such things as sheets, towels, and footcloths.
27. Q. What field bath facilities does the Soviet Army have?
- A. The 8-railroad car bath train. Troops also use various improvised bathing facilities.
28. Q. Does the Soviet Army use identification tags?
- A. Tags were once used by the Soviet Army, but these have been replaced by a small plastic tube which is carried in the man's watch pocket in his trousers. Inside this tube is a pre-printed form which contains the bearer's name, rank, year of birth, home address, blood group, and his field APO number. This form is changed with each change in assignment. This container is approximately one-half inch in diameter, and one and one-half inches in length; it is fitted with a screw cap. It is called the "Passport of death" by Soviet soldiers.
29. Q. Are the next of kin notified when a soldier is killed?
- A. Yes, a pre-printed form bearing the name and address of the deceased is signed by the unit commander and forwarded via normal mail channels to the next of kin. No notification is made to the next of kin from higher headquarters.
30. Q. Does the Soviet Army maintain records regarding the date of death and place of burial of each soldier killed?
- A. The unit commanding officer sends a list of deceased personnel to the central file; he also notifies headquarters that a certain number were killed (e.g., six sergeants, two corporals, and 14 privates.) The accuracy of these files is questionable, since the Germans overran the files during World War II.
- A master card file is maintained by a central office in the USSR; this file contains the name, date of death, and location (number) of the grave in which the soldier is buried. The next of kin can obtain further information about the deceased only by writing to this office. Whether complete burial information is available in this central office depends upon the situation surrounding the man's death. Individual graves are sometimes dug if only one or very few bodies are found. These graves are identified with a crude marker, and thereafter maintained by civilians living in that area. However, in the case of heavy casualties, it is a most common practice to bury all Soviets together in a mass grave (brotherly grave). If this is done, identification of each body is attempted sometimes; frequently no attempt at identification is attempted under these conditions. If identification is made (i.e., if the identification tags are collected from each body), the central file merely indicates that "Ivan Doe" is buried in "Mass Grave Number\_\_\_\_\_."
31. Q. Does the Soviet Army have a Graves Registration service?
- A. The Soviet Army does not have a Graves Registration service as such. After a battle Medical Corps personnel come forward to dispose of all corpses on the field.
32. Q. What does the Soviet Army do with enemy deceased?
- A. During the early stages of World War II, enlisted men's bodies were searched for valuables and for clothing items, and enemy officer bodies were searched for intelligence data -- then all enemy dead were buried in mass graves. At first, the identification tags on the enemy soldiers were not removed, but toward the end of the war this was done, and enemy "tags" were forwarded to headquarters. I do not know the disposition of the tags at headquarters level.

SECRET

25X1

SECRET

28X1

- 5 -

33. Q. Is any distinction made between Soviet Army officer and enlisted deceased?

A. Yes. No record is kept of enlisted men, other than the record book carried by each Soviet enlisted man; an accurate file is maintained on all officer personnel. Thus, when an officer is killed, official records are maintained, and headquarters is notified of the name of the officer, when, where, and how killed, and where buried. Next of kin are notified by the higher headquarters.

34. Q. What individual quartermaster items are standard issue to Soviet Army personnel?

A. Items listed below are issued to Soviet officers and men to be held in readiness in case of alert:

1. Officers

- 1 spare uniform (tunic and breeches)
- 2 pairs of underwear
- 1 pair boots
- 4 pairs foot wraps (according to source, all personnel from generals to privates wear foot wraps)
- 10 collar bands (made of linen for winter and summer)
- 1 cloak (overcoat)
- 1 pair gloves
- 5 handkerchiefs
- 2 sheets
- 2 towels
- 1 set toilet articles
- 1 writing set
- 1 shaving kit
- 1 pen knife
- 1 mess kit
- boot and clothing brush
- boot polish
- 1 housewife
- necessary training articles
- Orders and medals

Officers wear the following: uniform; underwear; overcoat; boots; pistol in holster (16 cartridges); field bag; map case.

2. Enlisted men

- 1 spare uniform (tunic and breeches)
- 1 pair underwear (consisting of undershirt and drawers, drawstring type. In winter, the summer issue item, light weight dark blue cotton drawers, is worn under winter underwear made of heavier material)
- 4 collar bands
- 2 handkerchiefs (bluish cotton)
- 1 steel helmet
- 1 poncho
- 1 pair foot wraps
- 1 pair wool mittens with trigger finger (OD with white flannel-like lining)
- 1 towel, OD
- 1 tooth brush; tooth paste or powder
- 1 shaving kit (safety razor, brush, and 10 blades)
- 1 writing set (10 envelopes, 20 sheets of paper, and 1 pencil)
- 1 housewife (known as Soldier's Set No. 3)
- 1 bar of soap
- 1 pen knife
- 1 large mess spoon (carried inside boot)
- 1 meat can
- 1 cup, iron enamelled ( $\frac{1}{2}$  liter; there is one type of enamelled cup which may be fastened to the canteen; this item, however, is very scarce.)
- 1 canteen (German type, 800 grams, with dark textile cover)
- 1 grenade packet, 2 cartridge pouches which are attached to the belt.
- 1 set of rods for cleaning weapons
- 1 gun kit (brush, patches, gun oil)
- 1 haversack (rucksack)

Enlisted men wear the following: uniform; underwear; overcoat; boots; gas mask. They carry a carbine or submachine gun. In winter, troops wear a padded OD jacket over the summer tunic; padded OD breeches are worn directly over the winter underwear.

35. Q. Do officers purchase their uniforms? How many uniforms are issued and how often are these items replaced?

A. All officer and enlisted personnel are issued uniforms.

SECRET

25X1

36. Q. Do Soviet soldiers carry the M-1939 pack?
- A. The M-1939 pack may be carried; however, the haversack (rucksack) is used extensively. The latter item is a drawstring type.
37. Q. What types of uniforms are worn by officers?
- A. 1. Dress.-- For parade dress, officers wear a uniform consisting of a service cap, mundir (a single breasted coat with a standing collar and five buttons); grade and branch of service are indicated by means of stars and stripes on the shoulderboards, patches and metallic devices on the collar, and metallic devices on the sleeve cuffs, and by piping on the front of the coat. Blue breeches are worn which have branch color piping on the outer seams. Blue breeches are generally worn but OD breeches or trousers may also be worn.
2. Service - Officers wear a roll collar lapel type double breasted coat. OD or blue breeches may be worn with the coat.
3. Field - Officers wear a tunic and breeches for field duty. Only officers and sergeant volunteers may wear service caps. Other personnel wear garrison caps, fur caps, or steel helmets. (Sergeant volunteers are sergeants who have completed their required three years service and who voluntarily remain in the Army.)
- In winter, officers may wear a knit OS sweater which is fastened by means of a zipper.
38. Q. Do enlisted personnel have a special dress uniform?
- A. The basic uniform for enlisted men is the tunic (cotton) and breeches, boots, and garrison cap. Some special or elite troops may wear a parade dress uniform consisting of a double breasted coat with standing collar, piping on sleeve cuffs and four buttons in back. Blue breeches are worn with the coat. In winter, soldiers wear a pair of cotton underwear, a pair of heavy underwear, cotton tunic, and padded jacket and breeches. The fur cap with ear flaps is worn in lieu of the garrison cap.
39. Q. To what extent are the valenki worn?
- A. The valenki are worn only by guards and by personnel subjected to prolonged exposure in extreme cold, never by line units. Rubber overshoes are sometimes worn over the valenki.

#### INSIGNIA

40. Q. Can you identify the following described shoulderboards?
- A. 1. black background with blue piping (Communications "Signal")  
2. bright red background with black piping (MGB; however the piping should be green instead of black)  
3. magenta with black piping, transverse stripes on the shoulder end (Infantry, or MGB - In 1951, the MGB adopted the Infantry type shoulderboard)  
4. black with black piping, transverse stripes on the shoulder end (Technical troops).
- As regards the placement of the transverse stripes and stars on shoulderboards and the exact size and shape of shoulderboards, etc, regulations are not strictly enforced and, therefore, considerable variations may be seen.
41. Q. When Soviet personnel wear overcoats, are shoulderboards also worn on the uniform coat or tunic?
- A. Yes. Officers are issued a set of shoulderboards for each uniform. When enlisted men wear the padded jacket, they may remove the shoulderboards from their tunics and wear them on the jacket.
42. Q. Are the stars on the shoulderboards of the Lt Colonels and Colonels placed directly on the longitudinal stripes or off the stripes?
- A. According to regulation, the stars should be placed on the stripes; however, it is not unusual to see stars placed off the stripes.
43. Q. Do personnel in the Soviet Army wear shoulderboards with OD background color, ie, the same color of the uniform? If so, when are these shoulderboards worn?
- A. During the last war, Soviet personnel wore field shoulderboards with OD background color on their OD field uniforms. Dress shoulderboards not having OD background color are currently worn by all personnel on all types of uniforms.
44. Q. How is the metallic emblem for combat engineer units placed on the shoulderboards? Is the emblem crossed to resemble the multiplication symbol as in the case of Artillery, or is it placed to resemble an addition symbol with the pick parallel to the sides of the shoulderboard?

SECRET [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

25X1

- 7 -

- A. The emblem for combat engineer troops is worn to resemble a multiplication symbol.
45. Q. To what extent are unit designations displayed on the dress shoulderboards by enlisted men?
- A. During ~~World War~~ they were widely worn; they are seldom seen at the present time.

25X1

[REDACTED] comments:

Quartermaster is in receipt of Soviet type boots manufactured in East Germany. These boots bear the standard European shoe size symbol inside the boot. There is no marking on the outer soles as indicated in answer to question 16.

Quartermaster has seen the padded winter uniforms in colors other than OD (black and dark blue) as stated in answer to question 34.

Source was not completely knowledgeable on question 40. It is not believed that placement of transverse stripes on enlisted men's shoulderboards would be simply a manufacturer's deviation from standard specifications, as source intimated.

- end -

SECRET [REDACTED]

25X1